

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01407 01 OF 02 062350Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SS-15 H-01 PA-01 NSC-05 /057 W
-----025230 070058Z /66

R 060958Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1152
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUDAPEST 1407

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: PROP SOPN HU US
SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL EVALUATION OF RFE BROADCASTS TO HUNGARY

REF: 77 BUDAPEST 3645

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY CONTINUES TO FIND TONE AND CONTENT OF
RFE HUNGARIAN BROADCASTS EXCELLENT AND A MAJOR ELEMENT IN
INFORMING HUNGARIANS OF EVENTS OUTSIDE AND WITHIN HUNGARY'S
FRONTIERS. END SUMMARY.

2. A THOROUGH REVIEW OF TRANSCRIPTS SUPPLIED BY RFE COVERING
LAST SIX MONTHS OF BROADCASTING REVEALS GENERAL EXCELLENCE
OF PROGRAMMING. RFE CRITICISM OF DEFICIENCIES OF COMMUNIST
SYSTEM HAS BEEN GENERALLY WELL FOUNDED, NON-POLEMICAL AND
FREE FROM LECTURING OR SELF-RIGHTEOUS TONE. RESTRAINED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUDAPE 01407 01 OF 02 062350Z

CRITICISMS SEEM PERFECTLY SUITABLE FOR SOPHISTICATED
HUNGARIAN AUDIENCE WHICH HAS ACCESS TO OTHER WESTERN
NEWS MEDIA INCLUDING RADIO, TV, AND PRINTED MATTER,
AND WHOSE DOMESTIC NEWSPAPERS ALSO PRESENT A SOPHIS-
TICATED, IF SLANTED, VIEW OF THE NEWS.

3. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO GAIN IMPRESSION FROM NUMBER

OF HUNGARIAN CONTACTS THAT RFE IS LISTENED TO AS A MATTER OF COURSE BY A WIDE RANGE OF HUNGARIAN ELITE. SEVERAL HABITUAL LISTENERS HAVE COMMENTED ON IMPROVED OBJECTIVITY AND TONE, FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, EXHIBITED BY THE RADIO'S HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS OVER THE PAST YEAR OR TWO, THUS CORROBORATING EMBASSY'S OWN EVALUATION.

4. EMBASSY CREDITS RFE WITH OVER-ALL GOOD COVERAGE OF EVENTS SURROUNDING RETURN OF CROWN. WHILE EARLY REPORTING OF DECISION AND CONTROVERSY IT PROVOKED IN SOME SEGMENTS OF AMERICAN PRESS OCCASIONALLY SEEMED TO BE SOMEWHAT REGRETFUL AND FOCUSED ON OPPOSITION TO THE CROWN'S RETURN BY SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, ONCE DECISION BECAME FIRM, CUSTOMARY RFE OBJECTIVITY REAPPEARED. ON-SPOT COVERAGE PROVIDED BY RFE CORRESPONDENT WHO CAME TO BUDAPEST FOR CROWN RETURN CEREMONIES WAS ESPECIALLY FINE TOUCH. AT FIRST GOH INFORMED EMBASSY THAT IT DID NOT WISH TO ADMIT AN RFE CORRESPONDENT TO REPORT ON CROWN'S RETURN, BUT WHEN FACED WITH NEWS THAT AN RFE CORRESPONDENT WAS GOING TO BE ON PLANE CARRYING CROWN BACK TO HUNGARY AND POLAND HAD ADMITTED AN RFE CORRESPONDENT TO COVER THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN THAT COUNTRY, GOH ACQUIESCED IN HIS ARRIVAL. ONCE HERE HE WAS GIVEN EXCELLENT TREATMENT BY GOH ENABLING HIM TO CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUDAPE 01407 01 OF 02 062350Z

BALANCED AND IMAGINATIVE RFE COVERAGE.

5. WITH REGARD TO INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE, RFE HANDLED WITH APPROPRIATE DELICACY AND TACT (FEB 9 BROADCAST, FOR EXAMPLE) THE DECISION OF HUNGARIAN DISSIDENT INTELLECTUALS, INCLUDING AGNES HELLER, TO LEAVE HUNGARY, WISELY RELYING ON STATEMENTS OF HELLER AND CULTURE MINISTER POSZGAY TO HAVE THEIR OWN REVEALING EFFECT. BUT PIECES SUCH AS ONE GIVING WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPER ANALYSIS OF SITUATION OF HUNGARIAN INTELLECTUALS (BROADCAST FEB 2) ALSO WERE WELL DONE. SO WAS ITEM ON HUNGARIAN SAMIZDAT PUBLICATIONS (FEB 18). DISCUSSION OF GREATER SUPPORT FOR APOLITICAL ROLE OF SCIENTIST IN HUNGARY (FEB 25) AND POINTING OUT OF CONTRADICTIONS IN KADAR'S PRAISE FOR SOVIET TROOPS TEMPORARILY STATIONED IN HUNGARY (FEB 23) WERE FURTHER EXAMPLES OF THOUGHTFUL RFE BROADCASTING. BROADCAST ON KADAR'S POSITION ON EUROCOMMUNISM (OCT 8) CREDITED HIM WITH MODERATE VIEWPOINT AND WAS TACTFUL DISCUSSION OF HIS MEDIATING ROLE IN WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. FINALLY, EMBASSY WISHES FAVORABLY ACKNOWLEDGE EXCELLENT REPORTING ON RELATIONS BETWEEN

CHURCH AND STATE. SUCH BROADCASTS ARE EXTREMELY
USEFUL FOR NEWS OF CHURCH STATE RELATIONS IN HUNGARY
IS CONFINED LARGELY TO VERY LIMITED CIRCULATION CHURCH
PRESS AND WOULD NOT OTHERWISE REACH ENTIRE INTERESTED
AUDIENCE AMONG HUNGARIAN PUBLIC.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01407 02 OF 02 070005Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SS-15 H-01 PA-01 NSC-05 /057 W
-----025471 070057Z /66

R 060958Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1153
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BUDAPEST 1407

6. ECONOMICS-RELATED BROADCASTS CONTINUE TO NOTE HUN-
GARIAN PROGRESS ALONG WITH SHORTCOMINGS, IN OUR VIEW A
SURE MEANS OF ENHANCING RFE'S CREDIBILITY. BALANCED
PIECES ON NEW ECONOMIC MECHANISM (FEB 1); DISECONOMIES
OF TRADE WITH CEMA (NOV 2); HUNGARY'S HOUSING PROBLEMS
(SEP 14); DISGUISED UNEMPLOYMENT (SEP 28); AND RELA-
TIONS WITH COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES (MAR 3) ARE SOME
EXAMPLES OF REPORTING WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE OVERCOME
ALMOST ENTIRELY EXCESSIVELY NEGATIVE TONE OF SEVERAL
YEARS AGO.

7. WITH RESPECT TO CROSS-REPORTING EMBASSY AGAIN FINDS
THAT BROADCAST ON CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS OF HIGH VALUE
ALONG WITH CONTINUED EMPHASIS BEING GIVEN TO EAST
EUROPEAN DISSIDENTS, EUROCOMMUNISM, AND ITALIAN AND
FRENCH ELECTIONS. TREATMENT OF DELICATE ISSUE OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUDAPE 01407 02 OF 02 070005Z

ROMANIA'S RELATIONS WITH ITS HUNGARIAN ETHNIC MINORITY (JAN 30 AND MAR 2, FOR EXAMPLE) HAS ALSO BEEN COMMENDABLE.

8. EMBASSY HAS FOUND INTERNATIONAL TOPICS, AS REPORTED IN DAILY BROADCAST ANALYSES, WELL CHOSEN AND TIMELY. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTAGE ON CSCE, SALT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS AS THEY AFFECT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE PARTICULARLY USEFUL. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO GIVE MUCH GREATER COVERAGE TO U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE TOPIC IS APPARENTLY HARDLY COVERED NOW. EMBASSY FEELS THAT A GREATER EFFORT NEEDS TO BE MADE TO DISPEL ILLUSION AND COUNTER PROPAGANDA IN HUNGARY TO EFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF U.S. ARE TARGETED SOLELY AGAINST COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. WE ALSO BELIEVE RFE MIGHT DEVOTE MORE TIME IN ITS INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE TO DISARMAMENT ISSUES OTHER THAN SALT AND TO PRESENTING THE AMERICAN SIDE OF THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE.

9. EMBASSY HAS STRIVEN HARD TO FIND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF RFE HUNGARIAN BROADCASTS. WE HAVE TRIED TO KEEP IN FOREFRONT NEED FOR CREDIBLE, RESTRAINED, NON-POLEMIC REPORTING WHICH RECOGNIZES HUNGARY'S SUCCESSES AS WELL AS DEFICIENCIES -- WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING RFE IS SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHING THIS TASK. BUT IT IS HARD TO FIND CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS BY WHICH RFE CAN IMPROVE ITS ALREADY TOP-NOTCH HUNGARIAN BROADCASTING. WE AGAIN CONGRATULATE RFE ON ITS FINE PERFORMANCE.
KAISER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT ON MICROFILM ONLY, SEMIANNUAL REPORTS, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUDAPE01407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: UPGRADED PER MEMO P880141-0339
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P880141-0334, D780149-0901
Format: TEL
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780487/aaaacvul.tel
Line Count: 206
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 819c5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: LOU
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LOU
Reference: 77 BUDAPEST 3645
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3059153
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEMI-ANNUAL EVALUATION OF RFE BROADCASTS TO HUNGARY
TAGS: PROP, SOPN, HU, US, RFE
To: STATE BELGRADE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/819c5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014